



**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**

(Attorney Docket No: 114049.122 (US1))

As below-named inventors, we hereby declare that:

Our residences, post office addresses and citizenship are as stated below next to our names.

We believe that we are the original, and only inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**Internet-Based Education Support System, Method and Medium With Modular Text-Editing Component For Use In A Web-Based Application**

the specification of which (check only one):

- ☐ is attached hereto.
- ☒ was filed as United States Patent Application  
Serial No. 10/643,075 on August 19, 2003
- ☐ was filed as PCT Patent Application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_  
and was amended under PCT Article 19 on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable)

We hereby state that we have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

We acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of the claims of this application in accordance with Title 37, CFR §1.56(a) and §1.56(b).

We hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119(a)-(e) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or 365(a) of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by us on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed:

**PRIOR FOREIGN/PCT APPLICATION(S) AND ANY PRIORITY CLAIMS  
UNDER 35 U.S.C. §119(a)-(d) or 365(b), or 365(a):**

COUNTRY (if PCT indicate PCT)	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 35 U.S.C. §119 (YES/NO)

I hereby claim benefit under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING	STATUS: PENDING OR ABANDONED
60/449,507	Feb 25, 2003	Pending
60/406,304	Aug. 28, 2002	Abandoned
60/404,276	Aug. 19, 2002	Abandoned
60/141,283	June 30, 1999	Abandoned
60/141,864	July 1, 1999	Abandoned
60/187,890	March 8, 2000	Abandoned

We hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) or 365(c) of any PCT international application(s) designating the United States of America that is/are listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in that/those prior application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, we acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior applications and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

**PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION OR PCT INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION(S)  
DESIGNATING THE U.S. FOR BENEFIT UNDER 35 U.S.C. §120 or 365(c):**

APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	STATUS: (PATENTED, PENDING OR ABANDONED)
09/608,208	30 June 2000	Pending

**POWER OF ATTORNEY:** As named inventors, we hereby appoint the following attorneys and/or agents to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

**CUSTOMER NUMBER 23483**

the mailing address and telephone number of each of whom is c/o HALE AND DORR LLP, 60 State Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02109 U.S.A., (617) 526-6000.

Send Correspondence to:

Wayne M. Kennard  
HALE AND DORR LLP  
60 State Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02109

Direct Telephone Calls to:


Wayne M. Kennard  
(617) 526-6183 Phone  
(617) 526-5000 Facsimile

U.S.S.N. 10/643,075  
Alcorn, et al.

Wherefore, we petition that letters patent be granted to us for the invention or discovery described and claimed in the attached specification and claims, and hereby subscribe our names to said specification and claims and to the foregoing declaration, power of attorney, and this petition.

We hereby declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

**Full name of first inventor: Robert L. Alcorn**

Inventor's signature  Date 2/27/04  
Citizenship: USA  
Residence: 4415 4th St S, Arlington, VA 22204  
Post Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Full name of second inventor: Scott N. Perian**

Inventor's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
Post Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Full name of third inventor: John S. Fontaine**

Inventor's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
Post Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Full name of fourth inventor: Daniel F. Rinzel**

Inventor's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
Post Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_

U.S.S.N. 10/643,075  
Alcorn, et al.


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**Full name of first inventor: Robert L. Alcorn**

Inventor's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
Post Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Full name of second inventor: Scott N. Perian**

Inventor's signature  Date 2/22/2004  
Citizenship: USA  
Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
Post Office Address: 3445 Table Mesa Dr #J-212 Boulder CO 80305

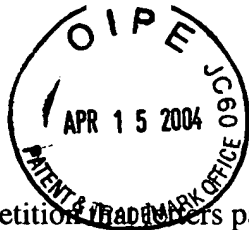
**Full name of third inventor: John S. Fontaine**

Inventor's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
Post Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Full name of fourth inventor: Daniel F. Rinzel**

Inventor's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
Post Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_

U.S.S.N. 10/643,075  
Alcorn, et al.



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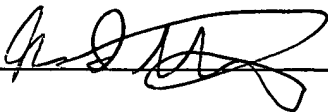
**Full name of first inventor: Robert L. Alcorn**

Inventor's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
Post Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Full name of second inventor: Scott N. Perian**

Inventor's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
Post Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_

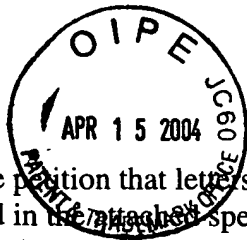
**Full name of third inventor: John S. Fontaine**

Inventor's signature  Date 2/23/04  
Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
Post Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Full name of fourth inventor: Daniel F. Rinzel**

Inventor's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
Post Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_

U.S.S.N. 10/643,075  
Alcorn, et al.



Wherefore, we petition that letters patent be granted to us for the invention or discovery described and claimed in the attached specification and claims, and hereby subscribe our names to said specification and claims and to the foregoing declaration, power of attorney, and this petition.

We hereby declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

**Full name of first inventor: Robert L. Alcorn**

Inventor's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
Post Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Full name of second inventor: Scott N. Perian**

Inventor's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
Post Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Full name of third inventor: John S. Fontaine**

Inventor's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
Post Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Full name of fourth inventor: Daniel F. Rinzel JR.**

Inventor's signature *[Signature]* Date 2/18/04  
Citizenship: USA  
Residence: 932 ROLFE ST S, ARLINGTON, ARIZONA  
Post Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Full name of fifth inventor: Dorothy R. Brown**

Inventor's signature Dorothy R. Brown Date 2/19/04  
Citizenship: US  
Residence: 3514 8th St S., Arlington VA 22204  
Post Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Full name of sixth inventor: Christopher Etesse**

Inventor's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
Post Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Full name of seventh inventor: David Yaskin**

Inventor's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
Post Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_

U.S.S.N. 10/643,075  
Alcorn, et al.



**Full name of fifth inventor: Dorothy R. Brown**

Inventor's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
Post Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Full name of sixth inventor: Christopher Etesse**

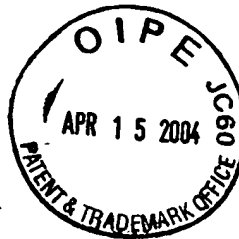
Inventor's signature [Signature] Date 4/25/04  
Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Residence: USA  
Post Office Address: 6032 Schoolhouse Woods RD, Burke, VA 22015

**Full name of seventh inventor: David Yaskin**

Inventor's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
Post Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_



U.S.S.N. 10/643,075  
Alcorn, et al.



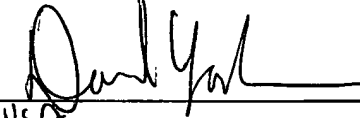
**Full name of fifth inventor: Dorothy R. Brown**

Inventor's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
Post Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Full name of sixth inventor: Christopher Etesse**

Inventor's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
Post Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Full name of seventh inventor: David Yaskin**

Inventor's signature  Date 2/23/04  
Citizenship: USA  
Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
Post Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## ASSIGNMENT

WHEREAS, we, **Robert L. Alcorn**, being a citizen of The United States, residing at 4415 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Arlington, VA 22204; **Dorothy R. Brown**, being a citizen of The United States, residing at 3514 8<sup>th</sup> Street, S. Arlington, VA 22204; **Christopher Etesse**, being a citizen of The United States, residing at 6002 Schoolhouse Woods Road, Burke, VA 22015; **John S. Fontaine**, being a citizen of The United States, residing at 3514 8<sup>th</sup> Street, S. Arlington, VA 22204; **Scott N. Perian**, being a citizen of The United States, residing at 3455 Table Mesa Drive #J-212, Boulder, Colorado 80305; **Daniel F. Rinzel, Jr.**, being a citizen of The United States, residing at 932 Rolfe Street, S. Arlington, VA 22204; and **David Yaskin**, being a citizen of The United States, residing at 1802 N. Danville Street, Arlington, VA 22201 are co-inventors of certain new and useful inventions and discoveries, for which an application for Letters Patent entitled **“Internet-Based Education Support System, Method and Medium with Modular Text-Editing Component For Use In A Web-Based Application,”** was filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office on August 19, 2003, and assigned United States Patent Application Number 10/643,075; and

WHEREAS, **Blackboard Inc.**, a Delaware corporation, whose business address is 1899 L Street, N.W., 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Washington, D.C. 20036, and which, together with its successors and assigns is hereinafter called “ASSIGNEE,” is desirous of acquiring the title, rights, benefits, and privileges hereinafter recited;

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of good and valuable consideration furnished by ASSIGNEE to us, receipt and sufficiency of which we hereby acknowledge, we hereby, without reservations:

1. Assign, transfer, and convey to ASSIGNEE my entire right, title, and interest in and to said inventions and discoveries, said application for Letters Patent, any and all other applications for Letters Patent on said inventions and discoveries in whatsoever countries, including all divisional, renewal, substitute, continuation, continuation-in-part, continued prosecution applications, and convention applications based in whole, or in part, upon said inventions or discoveries, or upon said applications, and any and all Letters Patents, reissues, and extensions of Letters Patent granted for said inventions and discoveries or upon said applications, and every priority right that is or may be predicated upon, or arise from, said inventions, said discoveries, said applications, and said Letters Patent;

2. Authorize ASSIGNEE to file patent applications in any or all countries on any or all of said inventions and discoveries in my name or in the name of ASSIGNEE or otherwise as ASSIGNEE may deem advisable, under International Conventions or otherwise;

3. Authorize and request the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks of the United States of America and the empowered officials of all other governments throughout the world to issue or transfer all said Letters Patents to ASSIGNEE, as assignee of the entire right, title, and interest therein or otherwise as ASSIGNEE may direct;

4. Warrant that I have not knowingly conveyed to others any right in said inventions, discoveries, applications, or patents, or any license to use the same, or to make, use, or sell anything embodying or utilizing any of said inventions or discoveries; and that I have good right to assign the same to ASSIGNEE without encumbrance;

5. Bind my heirs, legal representatives, and assigns, as well as myself, to do, upon ASSIGNEE's request and at ASSIGNEE's expense, but without additional consideration to me or them, all acts reasonably serving to assure that said inventions and discoveries, said patent applications, and said Letters Patents shall be held and enjoyed by ASSIGNEE as fully and entirely as the same could have been held and enjoyed by me, my heirs, legal representatives, and assigns if this Assignment had not been made; and particularly to execute and deliver to ASSIGNEE all lawful application documents including petitions, specifications, and oaths, and all assignments, disclaimers, and lawful affidavits in form and substance as may be requested by ASSIGNEE; and to communicate to ASSIGNEE all facts known to me relating to said inventions and discoveries or the history thereof, and to testify as to the same in any court or proceeding; and to furnish ASSIGNEE any and all documents, photographs, models, samples, and other physical exhibits in my control or in the control of my heirs, legal representatives, or assigns which may be useful for establishing the facts of my conceptions, disclosures, and reduction to practice of said inventions and discoveries.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 27 day of February, 2003.

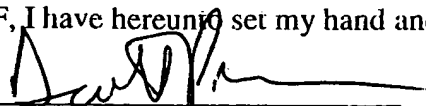
  
Robert L. Alcorn

State of \_\_\_\_\_ )  
County of \_\_\_\_\_ )

Then personally appeared before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2003, the above named Robert L. Alcorn who acknowledged the forgoing instrument to be his free act and deed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 23 day of February, 2003.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott N. Perian

State of \_\_\_\_\_ )  
County of \_\_\_\_\_ )

Then personally appeared before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2003, the above named Scott N. Perian who acknowledged the forgoing instrument to be his free act and deed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2003.

\_\_\_\_\_  
John S. Fontaine

State of \_\_\_\_\_ )  
County of \_\_\_\_\_ )

Then personally appeared before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2003, the above named John S. Fontaine who acknowledged the forgoing instrument to be his free act and deed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2003.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel F. Rinzel

State of \_\_\_\_\_ )  
County of \_\_\_\_\_ )

Then personally appeared before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2003, the above named Daniel F. Rinzel who acknowledged the forgoing instrument to be his free act and deed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

U.S.S.N. 10/643,075  
Alcorn, et al.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2003.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Scott N. Perian**

State of \_\_\_\_\_ )  
County of \_\_\_\_\_ )

Then personally appeared before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2003, the above named Scott N. Perian who acknowledged the forgoing instrument to be his free act and deed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 23 day of February, 2003.

  
**John S. Fontaine**

State of \_\_\_\_\_ )  
County of \_\_\_\_\_ )

Then personally appeared before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2003, the above named John S. Fontaine who acknowledged the forgoing instrument to be his free act and deed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2003.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Daniel F. Rinzel**

State of \_\_\_\_\_ )  
County of \_\_\_\_\_ )

Then personally appeared before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2003, the above named Daniel F. Rinzel who acknowledged the forgoing instrument to be his free act and deed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

U.S.S.N. 10/643,075  
Alcorn, et al.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2003.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Scott N. Perian**

State of \_\_\_\_\_ )  
County of \_\_\_\_\_ )

Then personally appeared before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2003, the above named Scott N. Perian who acknowledged the forgoing instrument to be his free act and deed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2003.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**John S. Fontaine**

State of \_\_\_\_\_ )  
County of \_\_\_\_\_ )

Then personally appeared before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2003, the above named John S. Fontaine who acknowledged the forgoing instrument to be his free act and deed.


\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 18<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2003.

4   
Daniel F. Rinzel JR

State of District of Columbia )  
County of UNITED STATES )

Then personally appeared before me this 18 day of Feb, 2004, the above named Daniel F. Rinzel who acknowledged the forgoing instrument to be his free act and deed.

  
Shawn D. Stillman  
Notary Public, District of Columbia  
My Commission Expires 01-14-2009

Notary Public

U.S.S.N. 10/643,075  
Alcorn, et al.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 19 day of

February, 2003<sup>14</sup>

Dorothy R. Brown  
**Dorothy R. Brown**

State of \_\_\_\_\_ )  
County of \_\_\_\_\_ )

Then personally appeared before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2003, the above named Dorothy R. Brown who acknowledged the forgoing instrument to be his free act and deed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2003.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Christopher E. Etesse**

State of \_\_\_\_\_ )  
County of \_\_\_\_\_ )

Then personally appeared before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2003, the above named Christopher E. Etesse who acknowledged the forgoing instrument to be his free act and deed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2003.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**David Yaskin**

State of \_\_\_\_\_ )  
County of \_\_\_\_\_ )

Then personally appeared before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2003, the above named David Yaskin who acknowledged the forgoing instrument to be his free act and deed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2003.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Dorothy R. Brown**

State of \_\_\_\_\_ )  
County of \_\_\_\_\_ )

Then personally appeared before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2003, the above named Dorothy R. Brown who acknowledged the forgoing instrument to be his free act and deed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 25 day of February, 2003.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Christopher E. Etesse**

State of \_\_\_\_\_ )  
County of \_\_\_\_\_ )

Then personally appeared before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2003, the above named Christopher E. Etesse who acknowledged the forgoing instrument to be his free act and deed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2003.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**David Yaskin**

State of \_\_\_\_\_ )  
County of \_\_\_\_\_ )

Then personally appeared before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2003, the above named David Yaskin who acknowledged the forgoing instrument to be his free act and deed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public